

JOINT DISTRICTS

of the

BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH

the

URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS

and the

RURAL DISTRICT OF SHEPPEY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the year

1959



J. T. MURPHY, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

68027



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I S L E O F S H E P P E Y
(Medical Officer of Health)
JOINT COMMITTEE

1959

Chairman:

H. C. Love

Members:

Queenborough Town Council:

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.

Alderman Miss D. L. Wood

Sheerness Urban District Council:

A. G. Coats, J.P.

A.H.R. Copland

A. Grigsby

Mrs. E. Tiltman

Mrs. K. M. Wood

Sheppey Rural District Council:

H. C. Love

N. W. Ford

Clerk to the Committee:

J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

Medical Officer of Health:

J. T. Murphy, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

Public Health Department Staff:

Mr. F. J. Pankhurst, Chief Clerk

Miss M. Leader (until November)

Miss D.R.J. Hicks (from November)

Telephone:
Sheerness 2395

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Sheppey
Joint (Medical Officer of Health) Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith reports on the health of the three constituent authorities of the Isle of Sheppey for the year 1959.

The population of the Island is now 28,320 according to the Registrar-General's latest estimate, an increase of 30, although the natural increase in population (the excess of births over deaths) was 130.

Details of vital statistics for the three districts and for the Island as a whole may be found in Tables I and II. In these tables it will be seen that -

(a) A decrease in the number of births in Queenborough and Sheerness was balanced by an increase in Sheppey R.D. and the total number of 479 is just one more than in 1958. This is the highest number of births since 1949. The birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 16.9, the rate for England & Wales being 16.5.

(b) The death rate was again higher than the year before, 12.3 against 12.0 and a 1959 rate for England & Wales of 11.6. The average for this rate for the period 1951-59 is 11.3 but the past four years have all exceeded this average. Although the Borough and Urban Districts did not vary greatly, there was a sharp increase in deaths in the Rural District. The total number of deaths for the Island was 349.

(c) There were ten deaths of infants under one year of age, two less than in 1958, and the rate of 20.9 per 1,000 live births is a satisfactory one and is lower than the recent average for the Island. 7 of the 10 were early neo-natal deaths.

Table III shows that the number of deaths from lung cancer was much higher than the previous year, a total of 20 being registered.

Table IV shows the incidence of infectious disease and it will be seen that Scarlet Fever was a little above average, Whooping Cough about normal and Measles well below. There was one outbreak of food poisoning and 31 people were affected.

Single cases of Typhoid Fever occurred in 1959 and in 1956 and local cockles were thought to be the cause of both cases. There was very little Poliomyelitis throughout the country in 1959 and only one case occurred on the Island. This was a paralytic case, an unvaccinated child, but fortunately a good recovery was made. Poliomyelitis vaccination is now available to the general public up to the age of 40 years and it is hoped that more advantage will be taken of this service by adults in order to eradicate as far as possible this crippling disease.

Table V shows Tuberculosis incidence and death rates in 5-year periods and although the incidence has only fallen slightly, the death rate has fallen sharply. Actual figures are sometimes more convincing than rates so I am including below the actual numbers of Island deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis for each year in the periods 1926 - 1930 and 1956 - 1959.

1926	.....	20	1956	.....	0
1927	.....	22	1957	.....	2
1928	.....	18	1958	.....	1
1929	.....	15	1959	.....	2
1930	.....	26			

On page 10 are attendance figures of Island patients and contacts at the Keycol Chest Clinic and I have also included this year, on the same page, figures of new cases and attendances at the Rochester and Sheppey Special Clinics. Finally, on pages 11, 12 and 13 are figures supplied by the School Medical Officer relating to medical inspections.

One important piece of legislation contained in the Kent County Council Act of 1958 was adopted by all three Island authorities in 1959. This was Section 116 which gives power to prevent an infectious tubercular person from handling food and for the payment of compensation if necessary.

Work on the Sheppey Water Board's ultimate water supply scheme was pursued a further stage during the course of the year. The last of three new sources in the Faversham area was test pumped during the spring at Throwley and yielded 2.1 m.g.d. On the advice of the scheme's consulting geologist, the Board was advised that further exploratory work on the Boughton Street site was likely to be uneconomic in view of the poor yield (0.4 m.g.d.) resulting from the initial test pumping. A further recommendation was made that a borehole should be sunk on a site at Selling where a potential yield of $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.g.d. could be expected. The Board in conjunction with the Medway Water Board and Maidstone Waterworks Company, who are partners in this section of the scheme, accepted this recommendation and application for an order for this Borehole under Section 14 of the Water Act 1945 has been made.

The 18" main from Sittingbourne to Sheppey (excepting the crossing of the new Kingsferry Bridge), with a 9" main to Southdown Reservoir and 12" main to Kingsborough Hill was completed. A temporary 4" main was laid by the Board on the partially completed bridge structure so that a connection could be made to the mains of the Sittingbourne & Milton U.D.C. water authority. The temporary main was connected for two months and afforded a bulk supply of 100,000 g.p.d. This bulk supply in conjunction with the bulk supply from H.M. Prison, Eastchurch, provided an additional 150,000 g.p.d. and enabled the Board to maintain a 24-hour supply throughout its statutory area for the whole of the year. An 8" main was laid from Eastchurch to Leysdown and this afforded increased supplies to the Warden and Leysdown areas.

Contracts were let for (a) the permanent crossing of the new Kingsferry Bridge with an 18" steel main and (b) 12" and 9" asbestos cement mains from Southdown Reservoir to Queenborough. Negotiations were also opened with the Sittingbourne & Milton U.D.C. for augmentation of the existing bulk supply so that up to 300,000 g.p.d. will be available from this source during 1960-63.

I wish to thank Mr. Rampling, Engineer & Manager of the Sheppey Water Board, for his co-operation and assistance during the year, and also the Public Health Inspectors and my clerical staff for their help in the preparation of this Report and for the smooth running of the department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Table I shows the birth and mortality rates for 10 year periods since 1901 and the period 1951-1959 and Table II shows the chief Vital Statistics for the Island for the past 5 years.

TABLE I

	Period	Birth Rate	Illegitimate % of live Births	Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
Queenborough M.B.	1901-1910	31.8	NK	12.5	79.6
	1911-1920	26.6	2.7	9.8	86.8
	1921-1930	18.0	2.6	8.5	78.7
	1931-1940	17.3	4.2	9.6	48.7
	1941-1950	22.3	5.3	10.5	37.8
	1951-1959	17.2	4.8	10.5	20.2
Sheerness U.D.	1901-1910	23.0	NK	10.7	115.5
	1911-1920	24.5	2.1	13.3	90.2
	1921-1930	18.4	2.5	11.1	60.2
	1931-1940	13.8	4.1	11.7	49.9
	1941-1950	20.0	6.7	13.0	32.2
	1951-1959	16.6	6.4	11.4	26.7
Sheppey R.D.	1925-1930	15.6	3.7	9.1	46.8
	1931-1940	15.7	3.4	10.3	32.0
	1941-1950	22.2	6.7	11.0	34.8
	1951-1959	14.7	6.0	11.4	24.2
Isle of Sheppey	1901-1910	23.8	NK	10.9	111.2
	1911-1920	24.8	2.2	12.7	89.6
	1921-1930	17.9	2.7	10.4	61.0
	1931-1940	14.7	3.9	11.1	44.5
	1941-1950	21.2	6.5	12.0	33.7
	1951-1959	16.0	6.1	11.3	25.2

TABLE II

	Year	Estimated Population	Live Births		Deaths		Infant Deaths under 1 year		
			Total	Illegitimate and rate per cent.	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	Total	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population	Total	Illegitimate
Queenborough M.B.	1955	3,220	59	4 or 6.8%	18.3	26	8.1	0	0.0
	1956	3,230	55	5 or 9.1%	17.0	47	14.5	1	18.2
	1957	3,210	64	3 or 4.7%	19.9	42	13.1	3	46.9
	1958	3,200	59	1 or 1.7%	18.4	34	10.6	0	0.0
	1959	3,220	46	2 or 4.3%	14.3	36	11.2	1	21.7
Sheerness U.D.	1955	15,650	251	16 or 6.3%	16.0	173	11.0	4	15.9
	1956	15,450	254	15 or 5.9%	16.4	193	12.5	3	11.8
	1957	15,480	246	16 or 6.5%	15.9	189	12.2	4	16.2
	1958	15,520	278	19 or 6.8%	17.9	187	12.0	8	28.7
	1959	15,400	267	16 or 6.0%	17.3	182	11.8	6	22.5
Sheppey R.D.	1955	9,380	126	4 or 3.2%	13.4	102	10.9	4	31.7
	1956	9,430	135	8 or 5.9%	14.3	109	11.6	1	7.4
	1957	9,510	136	10 or 7.3%	14.3	103	10.8	5	36.7
	1958	9,570	141	8 or 5.6%	14.7	118	12.3	4	28.3
	1959	9,700	166	11 or 6.6%	17.1	131	13.5	3	18.1
Isle of Sheppey	1955	28,250	436	24 or 5.5%	15.4	301	10.6	8	18.3
	1956	28,110	444	28 or 6.3%	15.8	349	12.4	5	11.2
	1957	28,200	446	29 or 6.5%	15.8	334	11.8	12	26.9
	1958	28,290	478	28 or 5.9%	16.9	339	12.0	12	25.1
	1959	28,320	479	29 or 6.0%	16.9	349	12.3	10	20.9

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

The following table shows the deaths from the above during the past ten years with age and sex distribution.

The totals of 117 and 14 for the ten years represent 1 in 16 of all male deaths but only 1 in 100 of all female deaths during that period. An average of 13 persons have died every year from this cause and one-third of them have been under 60 years of age.

TABLE III

Year	30-40 M F	40-50 M F	50-60 M F	60-70 M F	70-80 M F	80-90 M F	Totals M F
1950	- -	2 -	3 -	3 -	1 1	1 -	10 1
1951	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	1 -	- -	3 -
1952	1 -	2 -	3 -	2 -	2 1	- -	10 1
1953	- -	1 1	5 -	4 1	2 -	1 -	13 2
1954	- -	1 -	1 -	8 2	2 -	- -	12 2
1955	- -	1 -	4 -	8 1	7 -	- -	20 1
1956	- -	- -	4 1	3 2	5 -	- -	12 3
1957	- -	2 -	1 -	6 1	2 1	- -	11 2
1958	- -	- -	2 1	2 -	3 -	- -	7 1
1959	- -	1 -	4 -	7 1	7 -	- -	19 1
Totals	1 -	10 1	28 2	44 8	32 3	2 -	117 14

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table IV shows the incidence of infectious disease on the Island during the past five years.

TABLE IV

	Year	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Para. Ac. Poliomyelitis Non-Para.	Ac. Encephalitis	Dysentery	Malaria	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Typhoid
Queenborough M.B.	1955	1	1	-	106	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1956	5	14	-	48	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	1957	1	1	-	13	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1958	5	28	-	50	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1959	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sheerness U.D.	1955	20	2	-	759	10	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-
	1956	48	226	-	20	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	1957	4	9	-	127	5	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
	1958	11	15	-	311	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1959	24	65	-	18	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sheppey R.D.	1955	2	6	-	460	7	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1956	9	89	-	59	13	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1957	12	67	-	70	10	-	1	1	-	-	-	41	-
	1958	4	25	-	187	9	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
	1959	19	24	-	84	11	4	-	-	-	-	-	31	-
Isle of Sheppey	1955	23	9	-	1325	18	1	7	5	-	-	-	-	-
	1956	62	329	-	127	16	6	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
	1957	17	77	-	210	16	2	1	2	1	-	-	41	-
	1958	20	68	-	548	18	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
	1959	47	89	-	106	12	5	1	-	-	-	-	31	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Table V shows the case rates and death rates of Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population for 5-year periods since 1926.

TABLE V

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Case Rate	Death Rate	Case Rate	Death Rate
Queenborough M.B.				
1926-1930	1.40	0.89	0.25	0.00
1931-1935	1.13	0.66	0.06	0.00
1936-1940	0.61	0.41	0.06	0.00
1941-1945	0.96	0.88	0.07	0.14
1946-1950	1.07	0.47	0.06	0.00
1951-1955	0.69	0.12	0.06	0.06
1956-1959	0.23	0.08	0.00	0.00
Sheerness U.D.				
1926-1930	1.12	0.80	0.28	0.04
1931-1935	0.83	0.61	0.24	0.12
1936-1940	0.65	0.43	0.18	0.05
1941-1945	0.55	0.49	0.09	0.04
1946-1950	0.93	0.41	0.10	0.00
1951-1955	0.69	0.19	0.06	0.05
1956-1959	0.81	0.03	0.02	0.00
Sheppey R.D.				
1926-1930	1.37	0.66	0.44	0.11
1931-1935	0.88	0.75	0.36	0.09
1936-1940	0.29	0.31	0.12	0.02
1941-1945	0.61	0.42	0.19	0.05
1946-1950	0.94	0.32	0.20	0.07
1951-1955	0.97	0.21	0.17	0.02
1956-1959	0.47	0.05	0.03	0.00
Isle of Sheppey				
1926-1930	1.22	0.80	0.31	0.05
1931-1935	0.88	0.65	0.26	0.10
1936-1940	0.54	0.40	0.15	0.03
1941-1945	0.62	0.51	0.12	0.06
1946-1950	0.95	0.39	0.13	0.02
1951-1955	0.78	0.19	0.10	0.04
1956-1959	0.63	0.04	0.02	0.00

I am indebted to Dr. Owen Clarke, the Chest Physician, for the following figures relating to Sanatorium treatment and clinic attendances.

(i) Institutions to which patients were admitted during 1959 -

Keycol Sanatorium	.. ..	14 patients
Preston Hall	... ..	3
Bow Arrow Hospital	.. ..	4
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate	... ..	1

(ii) Patients from the Isle of Sheppey who attended the Chest Clinic during the year -

	Men	Women	Children B	G
Number of attendances made by new patients	64	30	19	20
Attendances made by new contacts	11	25	44	
Attendances made by old patients	321	196	30	27
Attendances made by old contacts	16	42	102	

VENEREAL DISEASE

I am indebted to Dr. C. D. Routh, Director of the Special Clinics held by the Medway & Gravesend Hospital Management Committee, for the following figures relating to patients attending at the Rochester and Sheppey Clinics from the Isle of Sheppey during 1959.

New patients -

	Males	Females	Total
Syphilis	-	2	2
Gonorrhoea	9	2	11
Others	21	6	27

Total attendances - 251

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

I am indebted to the School Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the medical inspection of school children in the area of the North East Kent Divisional Executive which comprises the Boroughs of Taversham and Queenborough, the Urban Districts of Sheerness and Sittingbourne & Milton, and the Rural Districts of Sheppey and Swale.

1.

Routine School Medical Inspections				
No. of Pupils inspected	Physical Condition of Pupils Inspected			
	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
	No.	% of Col.1	No.	% of Col.1
4946	4936	99.8	10	0.2

2.

Number of Special Inspections 88

Number of Re-Inspections 1136

3.

Number found to require treatment 797

4.

Infestation with Vermin

(a) Total number of examinations of pupils in schools by the school nurse or other authorised persons 11823

(b) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested 135

(c) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944 34

5. TREATMENT OF PUPILS

(i) Minor Ailments (Excluding Uncleanliness)

No. of cases
treated or under
treatment during
the year

(a) SKIN

Ringworm - (i) Scalp	...	...	...	-
(ii) Body	...	...	...	-
Scabies ..	...	...	...	-
Impetigo .	...	...	...	-
Other skin diseases	...	...	...	5

(b) OTHER

Eye defects ...	...	...	...	44
(External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to Hospital)				
Ear defects ...	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	172
(e.g. minor injuries, bruises, sores, etc.)				

TOTAL 233

Total number of attendances at Minor Ailment Clinics ... 290

(ii) Defective Vision and Squint (Excluding Eye diseases treated as Minor Ailments)

No. of cases
treated

(a) Errors of Refraction (including squint)...	...	712
(b) Other defects or diseases of the eyes (excluding those recorded in (i) ...	...	-
(c) Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed ...	...	343

6. DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers:-

(a) At Periodic Inspections	...	...	...	...	4475
(b) As specials	...	...	...	...	415

Number found to require treatment ... 2363

Number offered treatment ... 2112

Number actually treated ... 1257

Number of attendances made by pupils for treatment 4825

Half days devoted to:

(a) Periodic (School) Inspections	...	...	...	28 $\frac{1}{2}$
(b) Treatment	...	...	...	509 $\frac{1}{2}$

Fillings:

(a) Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	1589
(b) Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	60

Number of Teeth filled:

(a) Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	1543
(b) Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	60

Extractions:

(a) Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	789
(b) Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	1425

Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction ... 1070

Other operations:

(a) Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	1360
(b) Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	86

QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

1959

Mayor:

Councillor S.J.W. Byrne

Deputy-Mayor:

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.

Aldermen:

Mrs. M. Dobner R. D. Sharrock

*Miss D. L. Wood

Councillors:

Mrs. D.L. Anderson

J.W.N. Bromley

H. C. Carter

W. Flanagan

H. G. Harris

S. Houldershaw

G. H. Lerpiniere

H. F. Quaintance

J. W. Songhurst

D. H. Thomsett

E. J. Whitaker

*Chairman of Health Committee

Town Clerk:

F. Marshall

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector:

W. F. Dodds

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Queenborough Town Council

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Queenborough during the year 1959.

The Registrar-General has estimated the population to be 3,220, 20 more than the previous year. Once again the Birth Rate fell, this time to the low figure of 14.3 per 1,000 of the population. The average number of births for the Borough is 53 but only 46 were registered in 1959, the lowest since 1950 when there were only 39. The corrected rate (for comparison with other districts) was 14.6 and the rate for England & Wales was 16.5.

36 deaths were registered, only slightly above normal, and this figure gives a corrected rate of 12.5 as compared with 11.6 for the whole country.

One infant death was registered and the rate per 1,000 live births was 21.7. The average over the past ten years has been the satisfactory figure of 20.6. Once again the rate for the whole country was lowered to a record 22.0.

Only 8 cases of infectious disease were notified, the lowest figure for the past 20 years at least. There were no cases of Poliomyelitis and there have been none since 1951. It is nevertheless unfortunate that only one-half of the school children and one-quarter of young adults have been vaccinated. Vaccination against this disease is now offered to the general population up to 40 years of age.

I should like to thank Mr. Dodds, your Surveyor & Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation at all times, and I should also like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their kindness and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. AREA IN ACRES

Land covered by water	5) 1,103
Land	1098	

A further 1,272 acres consists of 610 acres of foreshore and 622 acres subject to tidal waters and included in this area is the harbour which is owned by the Council.

2. POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General for mid-1959	3,220
--------------------------------------------------------------	-------

This figure is 20 more than the 1958 estimate. The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 10 in 1959.

3. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	1,014
--------------------------------------	-------

4. RATEABLE VALUE	£48,445
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5. SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE	£200
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SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

1. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	24 (38)	20 (20)	44 (58)
Illegitimate	1 (-)	1 (1)	2 (1)
Totals	25 (38)	21 (21)	46 (59)

2. BIRTH RATE

Crude rate per 1,000 population	14.3 (18.4)
Corrected rate	14.6 (18.8)
Rate for England & Wales	16.5 (16.4)

3. ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS 2

This is 4.3 per cent of total live births.

4. STILLBIRTHS

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	1 (-)	- (1)	1 (1)
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	21.3		
Rate for England & Wales	20.7		

5. INFANT DEATHS 1

Infant death rate per 1,000 live births ...	21.7 (0.0)
Rate for England & Wales	22.0 (22.5)
Number of legitimate infant deaths	1
Number of illegitimate infant deaths	0
Number of neo-natal deaths (under 4 weeks)	0
Number of early neo-natal deaths (under 1 week) ...	0
Number of peri-natal deaths (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined)	1

6. MATERNAL DEATHS Nil

7. DEATHS

Crude rate per 1,000 of population	11.2 (10.6)
Corrected rate	12.5 (11.9)
Rate for England & Wales	11.6 (11.7)

A total of 36 deaths were registered, of which 20 were males and 16 females. This was 2 more than the 1958 total. Heart disease and associated conditions accounted for 47% of the deaths, a figure similar to the year before; respiratory diseases for 19% against 26% in 1958 and 19% were due to various forms of cancer as compared with 14%.

(Figures in brackets relate to 1958)

Table I shows the number of deaths allocated to the area by the Registrar-General.

TABLE I

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1.Tuberculosis; respiratory	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
2.Tuberculosis, other	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3.Syphilitic disease	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
4.Diphtheria	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5.Whooping Cough	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
6.Meningococcal infections	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7.Acute poliomyelitis	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
8.Measles	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9.Other infective and parasitic diseases	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
10.Malignant neoplasm; stomach	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
11.Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	2 (1)	- (-)	2 (1)
12.Malignant neoplasm; breast	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
13.Malignant neoplasm, uterus	- (-)	1 (1)	1 (1)
14.Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	3 (3)	1 (-)	4 (3)
15.Leukaemia, aleukaemia	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
16.Diabetes	- (1)	1 (-)	1 (1)
17.Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	3 (1)	3 (-)	6 (1)
18.Coronary disease, angina	3 (3)	1 (3)	4 (6)
19.Hypertension with heart disease ...	1 (-)	- (1)	1 (1)
20.Other heart disease	- (2)	5 (4)	5 (6)
21.Other circulatory disease	- (1)	1 (1)	1 (2)
22.Influenza	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
23.Pneumonia	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
24.Bronchitis	5 (3)	1 (5)	6 (8)
25.Other diseases of respiratory system..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
26.Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
27.Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
28.Nephritis and nephrosis	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
29.Hyperplasia of prostate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
30.Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
31.Congenital malformations	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
32.Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2 (-)	1 (2)	3 (2)
33.Motor vehicle accidents	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
34.All other accidents	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
35.Suicide	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
36.Homicide and operations of war ...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
All causes	20(17)	16(17)	36(34)

(Figures in brackets relate to 1958)

(c) The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred -

TABLE II

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
Males	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	4	7	2
Females	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	4	5	2

The average age at death was 67.7 (70.0 in 1958), being 68.7 (69.8) for the males and 66.6 (70.3) for the females. The oldest male was 88 and the oldest female 92

8. INFANT MORTALITY

There was one infant death under the age of 1 year. Over the past few years this has been the average figure. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 21.7, that for England & Wales being 22.0.

TABLE III

	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Acute virus tracheo-bronchitis	F	6 months	Hospital	Hospital

SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES
THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. 1959 was nearly completely free from infectious disease, only 8 cases being notified. 4 of these were Scarlet Fever and 4 were Measles.

Table IV shows the age distribution of infectious diseases notified during the year.

TABLE IV

	At all ages	Age groups										
		Under 1 year	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	4	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	-	1	-	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	-

Table V shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1958, removals to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar-General's classification.

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Total (1958)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1958)
Scarlet Fever	4	(5)	2	2	1	1	(1)
Whooping Cough	1	(28)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Diphtheria	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Measles	4	(50)	2	2	1	1	(1)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)...	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Erysipelas	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Meningococcal Infection	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Non-Para	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Acute Encephalitis - Infective	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Post-infectious	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Dysentery	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Smallpox	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Typhoid	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Malaria	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Food Poisoning	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	(1)
Totals	8	(87)	4	4	1	1	(1)

2. TUBERCULOSIS

No cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year and the case rate per 1,000 population for the past ten years is 0.50 as compared with 1.03 for the previous period. There were no deaths from this disease for the second successive year and in fact there have been only 4 deaths during the past 10 years.

No new cases of the non-pulmonary form of the disease were notified and no deaths were registered.

The Tuberculosis register was checked during the year in collaboration with the Chest Clinic and a total of 11 old cases were deleted as either recovered, removed and/or lost sight of. A summary of the register is shown in Table VI.

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On register, 1st January 1959 ...	19	16	3	0	38
New notifications	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers from other districts ..	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths due to Tuberculosis ...	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths of cases on register but not due to Tuberculosis ...	1	-	-	-	1
Removed from district in 1959 ...	2	-	-	-	2
Removed from district, lost sight of, recovered etc. ...	2	8	1	-	11
Number of cases remaining on register, 31st December 1959 ...	14	8	2	0	24

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to vaccinations and immunisations carried out during 1959.

(a) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Year of Birth	Vaccinated in 1959 (2 injections)	Total now vaccinated
1959	5	5
1958	26	26
1957	12	21
1956	6	29
1955	3	43
1954	2	22
1953	3	24
1952	6	26
1951	1	20
1950	2	30
1949	7	41
1948	4	42
1947	3	40
1946	8	28
1945	5	26
1944	4	29
Earlier	102	130
Totals	199	582

These figures mean that about 45% of the under 5's are protected, 52% of school children and less than 25% of the eligible young adults. A total of 404 children and young adults received a third injection during the year.

(b) Smallpox Vaccination

Age group	Primary	Re-vaccination
Under 1	11 (10)	- (-)
1 to 4	29 (-)	- (-)
5 to 14	1 (-)	- (-)
15 and over	1 (1)	- (-)
Totals	42 (12)	- (-)

The number vaccinated against Smallpox during the year was a big increase on 1958 and the percentage of children in the 1-4 years age group has risen slightly to about 46%.

(c) Diphtheria Immunisation

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1959	Re-inforcing Inoculation in 1959	Total number immunised at end of 1959
1959	13	-	13
1958	39	-	41
1957	24	1	40
1956	6	1	41
1955	4	2	44
1954	1	5	37
1953	1	11	53
1952	-	7	56
1951	-	-	53
1950	-	-	30
1949	-	-	45
1948	-	1	56
1947	-	-	51
1946	-	-	31
1945	-	-	43
Totals	88	28	634

I commented last year that the number immunised against Diphtheria during the year was very low, but I am pleased to say that this was reversed in 1959 and 88 were immunised as compared with only 20 in the previous year. 70% of those between 1 and 5 years are now protected and nearly 77% of all school children.

(d) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Year of Birth	Number immunised in 1959	Total number immunised at end of 1959
1959	16	16
1958	40	47
1957	25	39
1956	7	8
1955	3	3
1954	2	3
1953	2	2
Earlier	2	3
Totals	97	121

These figures also show a welcome increase over 1958, and now 70% of the 1957-58 group are protected and 35% of the 1959's during their first year of life.

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

The aeration of the water at the source was continued in an attempt to reduce the iron content, and this, combined with regular flushing of the mains has resulted in very few complaints due to discolouration of the water. Several complaints were received due to the presence of blood worms in the supply during the height of the summer. These worms are the larvæ of a midge which lays its eggs in fresh water to incubate, and although the worms are unpleasant in appearance, they are not harmful to the water or human beings. It is assumed that the midges invaded the aeration basin due to the lack of open stretches of fresh water during the exceptional summer of last year. The Board took immediate steps to rectify the nuisance and no further cases of the presence of the worms were reported.

The consumption of water for the year in the Borough totalled 344.2 million gallons, representing 37.7 gallons-head-day, made up of 24.8 gallons-head-day unmetered (which may be considered domestic) and 12.9 gallons-head-day metered (industrial). This industrial demand is extremely high per head of population.

The following are details of samples taken by the Water Board -

	No. of samples	No. of samples in which were found	
		Coliform bacilli	Fæcal Coli
Untreated	51	1	-
Treated	46	5	2

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage flows by gravitation to two main outfalls in South Street and the Chalk Wharf. It is stored at these points and released with the ebb tide. In order to reduce the nuisance caused at these outfalls, the tidal flaps have been replaced by manually operated valves to ensure that sewage is only discharged with a strong flow of ebb tide.

Since the demolition of the 18 houses at Pier Cottages, all the houses in the Borough are on main drainage.

3. SCHOOLS SANITATION

The general sanitary arrangements at the Schools are satisfactory.

4. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on a site near Pier Cottages. Monthly applications of a tip dressing to prevent fly breeding and periodical baiting for rodents is carried out. Only minor infestations were observed during the year.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The new public conveniences were opened early in the year and they provide accommodation and washing facilities for both sexes.

6. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

- (a) No rooms were disinfected after infectious disease.
- (b) Four premises were disinfested during the year for cock-roaches.

7. MOSQUITO CONTROL

There was very little nuisance from mosquitoes in 1959, due mainly to the dry summer which did not provide so many breeding places for these insects. Ditches were sprayed regularly with malariol throughout the summer months but it is hoped to cut down on spraying in 1960 by using anti-mosquito capsules.

8. RODENT CONTROL

Number of infestations by rats	...	...	...	12
Number of infestations by mice	...	...	...	11
Number treated by local authority	...	...	...	22

All complaints were dealt with by the Council except for the Sheppey Glue & Chemical Works who employ their own operator. The rat population at the Works was kept well in hand.

9. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway & Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

10. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Maidstone and the following specimens were examined -

Water	...	...	...	...	97
Fæces	...	...	...	...	4
Urine	...	...	...	...	4
Vomit	...	...	...	...	1

SECTION V

HOUSING

1. The following figures show building progress during 1959 and since the end of the war -

	During 1959	Total built since the war
Council houses:		
Completed	12	212
Under construction	24	-
Private enterprise:		
Completed	-	8

The houses built and under construction were all 3-bedroomed type in blocks of four. The following is an analysis of the 292 houses owned by the Council -

	Pre-war	Post-war	Total
Bungalows	8	18	26
Non-parlour 2-bedroomed	-	40	40
Non-parlour 3-bedroomed	63	36	99
Parlour 2-bedroomed	-	6	6
Parlour 3-bedroomed	9	112	121

At the end of the year there were 106 applicants on the Council's waiting list. The following are details -

Queenborough residents in rooms	30
in flats or houses	37
Residents outside Queenborough in rooms	18
in flats or houses	21

2. No houses were made the subject of Clearance or Demolition Orders during the year. One house, No. 5 Woodhall Terrace, was closed under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957.

Following representations to the Council, six houses in Whiteway Road were acquired by agreement, brought up to a reasonable standard and are being used as temporary accommodation.

3. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below -

Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	-
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement	-
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act 1957	-
Total number of families displaced	-

Houses not included in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 17(1) Housing Act 1957.. . . .	-
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec.17(1) Housing Act 1957..	-
Houses closed under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) . . .	-
Parts of buildings closed under Sec.18 Housing Act 1957	-
Houses closed under Sections 17(3) and 26	1
Total number of families displaced	-

Repairs in the period

Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts .	33
Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice .. .	1
Housing Act 1957 - formal notice - Sections 9 and 16 ..	6
Houses made fit under Section 24 Housing Act 1957 . . .	-

Unfit houses in temporary use

Under Section 48	-
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Purchase of houses by agreement

In Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders	-
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

Improvement Grants

Number of applications approved	8
Total cost	£2,562
Total grants made	£1,280

Rent Act 1957

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	-
Undertakings by Landlord after service of Form J . . .	-
Certificates of Disrepair issued	-
Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	-

SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK

There are no producers in the district but ten distributors retail the following designations -

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	3
T.T. (Pasteurised	..	...	...	...	...	2
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	9

2. ICE CREAM

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the Borough. Nine premises are registered for its sale and all retail pre-packed well-known makes. There are also two itinerant vendors who visit the district regularly during the summer.

3. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Regular inspections are made of butchers' shops, factory canteens and other food preparing places. The following foods were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered -

Ox Liver	...	...	...	...	...	28 lb.
Chilled Beef	..	...	...	...	...	24 lb.
Tinned Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	...	...	36 lb.
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...	30 lb.

Condemned meat is stained with naphthalene green and sent to the Glue & Chemical Works for processing, whilst tinned and other foods are buried on the Council's tip.

4. FOOD PREMISES

(a) The following are premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1955, or the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 -

	Premises	Inspections
Ice cream, sale and storage ..	9	36
Sausages, manufacture	2	14
Dairy	1	4

(b) 132 inspections were made of 34 other food premises, an analysis of which, by type of business, appears below -

Butchery	3
Grocery	4
General stores	8
Greengrocery	6
Fishmonger	1
Baker and confectioner	1
Cafe	3
Clubs	2
Public houses	6

5. FISH FRYING

There is only one fish frying establishment and this is always clean and well kept.

6. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

By courtesy of Mr. S. Strugnell, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, I am able to give below the details of samples taken in the Borough during the year -

Blackcurrant Cordial	1
Coffee	1
Coldrex	1
Currants	1
Damson Jam	1
Gin	1
Glycerine Honey and Lemon	1
Milk	6
Mincemeat	1
Orangeade	1
Oranges	2
Sunny Spread	1
Tea	1

All of the above samples were genuine.

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937
in respect of the year 1959 for the
Borough of Queenborough

PART I OF THE ACT -

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Secs 1,2,3,4,6 are to be enforced by Local Auth orities (no mechanical power)	-	-	-	-
Factories not included above in which Sec 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power) ...	11	76	1	-
Other premises in which Sec 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	1	12	-	-
Total	12	88	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	1	1	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-
Total ...	1	1	-	-

3. Part VIII of the Act -- Outwork

Number of outworkers Nil

APPENDIX B

Nuisances and Defects Remedied in 1959

Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Drainage cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drainage reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sinks, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Waste pipes, repaired, renewed or trapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Water supplies, defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Rainwater pipes and eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Roofs repaired	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Walls repaired	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Wall plaster renewed	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Floors repaired	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Windows and ventilation repaired and improved	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fireplaces and stoves repaired	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Yard paving repaired	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Accumulations of refuse abated	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

SHEERNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1959

Chairman:
J. G. Ward, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:
H. L. Wise

Councillors:
W. C. Butterworth
E. R. Buzzing
A. G. Coats, J.P.
A.H.R. Copland
A. Grigsby
F. W. Roalfe
A. F. Standen, M.B.E.
Mrs. E. Tiltman
G.R.F. Topsom
Mrs. K. M. Wood

Health Committee

Chairman:
Mrs. E. Tiltman

Councillors:
E. R. Buzzing
W. C. Butterworth
G.R.F. Topsom
Mrs. K. M. Wood
J. G. Ward, J.P.

Clerk of the Council:
J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor
Senior Public Health Inspector:
D. E. Jacob, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Deputy Public Health Inspector:
Miss P. M. A'Bear, M.A.P.H.I.
(Resigned October, 1959)

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Sheerness Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Sheerness for the year 1959.

The Registrar-General has estimated the population to be 15,400 which is 120 less than the year before although the natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 85.

267 births were registered, lower than in 1958 but slightly above the average for the past 10 years and the Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population was 17.3. The Corrected Rate (for comparison with other districts) was 18.7 whilst that for England & Wales was 16.5

For the fourth successive year the number of deaths decreased slightly, 182 against 187 the year before. The Death Rate was 11.8 but the Corrected Rate was 12.5 as compared with 11.6 for the whole country.

Of the 123 cases of infectious disease that were notified during the year, 65 were of Whooping Cough and 24 of Scarlet Fever. One case of Paralytic Poliomyelitis occurred and also a Typhoid Fever but both of these made good recoveries. One death was caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one was due to Pneumonia.

63 houses were dealt with by clearance areas, demolition or closing orders and only about 60 houses remain from the 1955 slum clearance programme.

I would like to thank Mr. Jacob, the Senior Public Health Inspector, for the able manner in which he has performed his duties and also the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and consideration during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1.	AREA	943 acres
----	------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----------

2.	POPULATION							
----	------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	As estimated by the Registrar-General							
	for mid-1959	...	...	...	...			15,400

This figure is 120 less than the 1958 estimate.

3.	NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES				4,671
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4.	RATEABLE VALUE	£165,283
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5.	SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE (estimated) ..							£700
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SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

1. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	132 (131)	119 (128)	251 (259)
Illegitimate	7 (12)	9 (7)	16 (19)
Totals	139 (143)	128 (135)	267 (278)

2. BIRTH RATE

Crude rate per 1,000 population	17.3 (17.9)
Corrected rate	18.7 (19.3)
Rate for England & Wales	16.5 (16.4)

3. ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS 16

This is 6.0 per cent of total live births.

4. STILLBIRTHS

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	2 (2)	4 (2)	6 (4)
Illegitimate	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	25.5	(14.2)	
Rate for England & Wales	20.7	(21.6)	

5. INFANT DEATHS 6

Infant death rate per 1,000 live births ...	22.5 (28.7)
Rate for England & Wales	22.0 (22.5)
Number of legitimate infant deaths	6
Number of illegitimate infant deaths	0
Number of neo-natal deaths (under 4 weeks)	6
Number of early neo-natal deaths (under 1 week)	6
Number of peri-natal deaths (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined)	13

6. MATERNAL DEATHS Nil

7. DEATHS

Crude rate per 1,000 population	11.8 (12.0)
Corrected rate	12.5 (12.8)
Rate of England & Wales	11.6 (11.7)

182 deaths were registered as compared with 187 in 1958. 97 were males and 85 females. 53% of the deaths were due to heart disease and associated conditions as compared with 57% in 1958. Deaths from cancer increased to 21% from 15% whilst respiratory diseases accounted for only 7% compared with 11%. 7 of the deaths were caused by accidents, 4 of them involving motor vehicles.

(Figures in brackets relate to 1958)

Table I shows the number of deaths allocated to the area by the Registrar-General.

TABLE I

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1.Tuberculosis, respiratory	1 (1)	- (-)	1 (1)
2.Tuberculosis, other	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3.Syphilitic disease	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
4.Diphtheria	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5.Whooping Cough	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
6.Meningococcal infections	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7.Acute Poliomyelitis	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
8.Measles	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9.Other infective and parasitic diseases	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
10.Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2 (2)	4 (2)	6 (4)
11.Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	10 (5)	- (-)	10 (5)
12.Malignant neoplasm, breast	- (-)	3 (1)	3 (1)
13.Malignant neoplasm, uterus	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
14.Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	10 (6)	9 (9)	19 (15)
15.Leukaemia, aleukaemia	- (2)	- (2)	- (4)
16.Diabetes	2 (-)	1 (2)	3 (2)
17.Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	12 (15)	14 (17)	26 (32)
18.Coronary disease, angina	18 (19)	8 (15)	26 (34)
19.Hypertension with heart disease ...	1 (1)	4 (3)	5 (4)
20.Other heart disease	11 (9)	21 (21)	32 (30)
21.Other circulatory disease	2 (2)	6 (5)	8 (7)
22.Influenza	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
23.Pneumonia	- (4)	1 (3)	1 (7)
24.Bronchitis	6 (10)	1 (3)	7 (13)
25.Other diseases of respiratory system..	2 (1)	2 (-)	4 (1)
26.Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1 (-)	1 (2)	2 (2)
27.Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1 (-)	1 (1)	2 (1)
28.Nephritis and Nephrosis	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
29.Hyperplasia of prostate	- (3)	- (-)	- (3)
30.Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
31.Congenital malformations	1 (1)	- (1)	1 (2)
32.Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9 (5)	6 (2)	15 (7)
33.Motor vehicle accidents	3 (1)	1 (-)	4 (1)
34.All other accidents	3 (7)	- (1)	3 (8)
35.Suicide	1 (1)	- (2)	1 (3)
36.Homicide and operations of war ...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
All causes	97 (95)	85 (92)	182 (187)

(Figures in brackets relate to 1958)

The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred -

TABLE II

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
Males	4	-	-	1	-	1	6	22	27	30	6
Females	2	1	-	-	-	2	3	15	20	29	13

The average age at death was 68.4 (68.2 in 1958), being 66.6 (64.6) for the males and 70.5 (72.0) for the females. The oldest person was a male of 96 and one other male and four females reached over 90 years.

8. INFANT MORTALITY

There were 6 infant deaths during the year, 2 less than in 1958. The Infant Mortality Rate of 22.5 is just below the average of recent years. For England & Wales the rate was 22.0. All of the 6 deaths were in the early neo-natal group of under 1 week and were all due to prematurity.

The following table gives particulars of the deaths -

TABLE III

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Atelectasis				
Prematurity 29 weeks	F	5 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity	M	1 day	Hospital	Hospital
Premature delivery 36 weeks .	M	1 day	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity 2 lb. 11 ozs. ...	M	2 days	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity 37 weeks	M	3 days	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity 2 lb. 9 ozs.	F	4 days	Hospital	Hospital

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. 123 cases of infectious disease were notified in 1959 as compared with 353 in 1958 when a measles epidemic totalled 311. There were only 18 cases of this disease in 1959.

Scarlet Fever occurred sporadically during the first half of the year and the majority of the 24 cases were notified during that period. There were more cases of Whooping Cough - 65 - than in 1957 or 1958 and these were spread out over the whole of the year. This number is about the average of recent years.

One case of Paralytic Poliomyelitis occurred during July. This was the first case of paralysis since the small outbreak in 1955. The child made a good recovery.

An isolated case of Typhoid Fever occurred during August and as the patient had collected and eaten cockles from the Scrapsgate foreshore, these shellfish were suspected as being the cause, although *S. typhi* were not isolated from samples of cockles taken by the Rural District Public Health Department, or from sewer swabs.

There were two deaths attributed to infectious diseases, one to Pneumonia (all forms) and one to Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

TABLE IV

Disease	At all ages	Age groups										
		Under 1 year	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	24	1	-	1	1	3	16	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	65	5	7	11	5	5	24	2	3	2	1	-
Measles	18	2	1	4	1	5	4	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis - Para	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	12	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	4	3
Totals	123	9	8	16	8	14	45	5	4	3	7	4

Table V shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1958, removals to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar-General's classification.

TABLE V

Disease	Total	(Total 1958)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	(Deaths 1958)
Scarlet Fever	24	(11)	11	13	2	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	65	(15)	31	34	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles	18	(311)	10	8	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) ...	1	(7)	-	1	-	1	(7)
Erysipelas	1	(-)	-	1	-	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para	1	(-)	1	-	1	-	(-)
Non-Para	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Encephalitis - Infective	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Post-Infectious	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Smallpox	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid	1	(-)	1	-	1	-	(-)
Malaria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	(8)	10	2	9	1	(1)
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Totals	123	(353)	64	59	13	2	(8)

2. TUBERCULOSIS

12 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year and this is the average figure for the past 10 years. 1 death occurred, a man of 65 years. No non-pulmonary cases were notified.

The Tuberculosis register was checked in collaboration with the Chest Clinic and 35 old pulmonary and 17 non-pulmonary cases have been deleted as either recovered, removed and/or lost sight of. A summary of the Register is shown in the Table below.

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January 1959	98	74	8	19	199
New notifications	10	2	-	-	12
Transfers into district	5	4	-	-	9
Deaths due to Tuberculosis ...	1	-	-	-	1
Deaths of cases on register but not due to Tuberculosis .	1	-	-	-	1
Removed from district	13	8	-	-	21
Recovered	1	1	-	-	2
Cases deleted from register as removed and/or lost sight of.	16	19	5	12	52
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December, 1959.	81	52	3	7	143

3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to vaccinations and immunisations carried out during 1959.

(a) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Year of Birth	Vaccinated in 1959 (2 injections)	Total now vaccinated
1959	22	22
1958	170	182
1957	94	175
1956	63	161
1955	41	138
1954	49	160
1953	42	147
1952	52	170
1951	37	154
1950	22	194
1949	42	204
1948	58	214
1947	49	253
1946	70	220
1945	61	206
1944	64	196
Earlier	754	916
Totals	1690	3712

1,690 children and young adults received 2 injections against poliomyelitis during 1959, 313 more than the year before. Although about 65% of all school children have now been vaccinated, only about 39% of the 16 - 26 group have as yet had two injections. A total of 2,123 children and young adults received a third injection during the year.

(b) Smallpox Vaccination

Age group	Primary	Re-vaccination
Under 1	87 (85)	- (-)
1 to 4	88 (74)	- (-)
5 to 14	10 (2)	5 (10)
15 and over	13 (1)	10 (18)
Totals	198 (162)	15 (28)

These figures, together with recent vaccination records, show that a level of 67% for children aged 1 to 4 has been maintained.

(c) Diphtheria Immunisation

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1959	Re-inforcing Inoculation in 1959	Total number immunised at end of 1959
1959	38	-	38
1958	120	-	144
1957	34	-	156
1956	4	-	186
1955	4	5	191
1954	2	33	209
1953	1	7	214
1952	1	3	238
1951	-	6	233
1950	1	-	279
1949	-	4	278
1948	-	2	201
1947	-	-	183
1946	-	1	137
1945	-	-	124
Totals	205	61	2811

These figures show once again that about 70% of all school children have been immunised.

(d) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Year of Birth	Number immunised in 1959	Total number immunised at end of 1959
1959	77	77
1958	126	181
1957	21	116
1956	8	28
1955	5	10
1954	-	5
1953	-	3
1952	1	4
1951	1	2
1950	1	1
Totals	240	427

This is the second full year that the scheme for Whooping Cough immunisation has operated and taken in conjunction with last year's figures it is estimated that about 30% of the 1959 birth group have been immunised, 67% of the 1958 and 48% of the 1957 group.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

One improvement was carried out to the water supply system in Sheerness during the past year, this involved the laying of a 6" main in St. Georges Avenue. Due to the affording of bulk supplies from H.M. Prison, Eastchurch and from the Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District Council, the Board was able to provide a continuous 24 hour supply throughout the area.

The consumption of water for the year in Sheerness totalled 157.4 million gallons representing 27.8 gallons-head-day, made up of 26.2 gallons-head-day unmetered (which may be considered domestic) and 1.6 gallons-head-day metered (industrial or non-domestic).

The following are details of samples taken by the Water Board and the Health Department -

Supply	No. of samples	No. of samples in which were found	
		Coliform bacilli	Fæcal Coli
Trinity Road -			
Untreated	43	2	0
Treated	22	1	0
Sheerness East -			
Untreated	42	4	0
Treated	23	0	1

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage is collected at two main pumping stations. The canal station deals with sewage from the Marine Town area, the newer parts of Mile Town and the new housing estates. The sewage from these areas collects in a tide lock storage tank at West Minster, whence it flows out to sea by gravity at low tide or is pumped out at high tide. Sewage from Blue Town and the older part of Mile Town is collected at the West Minster pumping station and this is also pumped out to sea. Four subsidiary lifting stations are used throughout the town and the sewage is screened either at one of the lifting stations or at the main pumping station, but is not otherwise treated.

Scrapping of the silted-up sewers in Richmond Street and Marine Parade was carried out during the year under the direction of the Engineer & Surveyor. One section of the sewer was found to have collapsed and was repaired.

3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Refuse disposal is undertaken jointly by the Council and Sheppey R.D.C. The Scrapsgate tip was closed during 1959 and a new site at Windmill Creek, also in the Rural District, came into use. This tip is more distant than the old one and the Council acquired two new refuse collecting vehicles of larger capacity. The method of loading these vehicles is a great improvement, large covered bins being used instead of the old open skips.

4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

All schools are on main drainage with efficient flushing apparatus. Cooking and washing up arrangements at the canteens are satisfactory.

5. PUBLIC BATHS

(a) Slipper Baths - The use of the public baths continued to decline steadily and although they were available throughout the year, the Council decided to close them at the end of the financial year in March, 1960.

(b) Open Air Swimming Pool - There is one swimming pool open to the general public and this is owned and maintained by the Council. It is 72 ft. wide, 150 ft. long and has a capacity of 310,000 gallons. The bath is emptied and cleansed during the winter and filled with sea water at the start of the season. Sea water is also used for regular topping-up.

The method of purification used is pressure filtration, aeration and breakpoint chlorination. Panacide sodium technical solution is used as an algicide and sodium carbonate for maintaining a satisfactory pH value.

On an average about 30 - 40,000 persons use the pool during the summer season. Ten samples were taken for bacteriological examination and of these one taken from the shallow end was reported as unsatisfactory, probably due to the sample being taken when the bath was crowded. One taken at the same time from the deep end showed no contamination.

6. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

It was not possible to commence construction of the proposed new conveniences at the sea front approach facing the railway station but it is expected these will be constructed during 1960.

7. LETHAL CHAMBER FOR CATS AND DOGS

The lethal chambers supplied by the R.S.P.C.A. and maintained by the Council for destruction of sick and aged animals were used for 152 cats and 73 dogs during the year, 58 animals less than 1958. One of these was a stray brought in by the Police.

8. CAMPING SITES

There are three licensed sites for summer visitors situated at -

Cheyney Rock	-	25 caravans
Seabreeze Camp	-	32 caravans and chalets
Ravelin Battery	-	82 caravans

There were no changes in the sites and all were conducted satisfactorily. Mains water supply and drainage are provided and regular refuse collections made. There are no residential camping sites, all three being for holiday use only.

9. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) 19 rooms in 7 premises were disinfected after cases of infectious disease.

(b) The following are details of 106 disinfestations -

					Council houses		Other houses	
					Houses	Rooms	Houses	Rooms
Bed bugs	...	...	...	...	5	12	10	23
Fleas	...	...	...	...	6	14	19	53
Ants	...	...	...	...	11	11	4	7
Beetles	...	...	...	...	4	4	1	1
Cockroaches	...	...	...	...	6	7	21	28
Silverfish	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	1
Wasps	...	...	...	...	1	-	8	-
Flies	...	...	...	...	2	-	6	33

10. MOSQUITO CONTROL

Treatment of watercourses commencing in the spring and continuing into the autumn was undertaken. Prepared larvicide pellets were used in addition to a larvicidal oil applied by spraying. The spraying of oil appeared to produce better results but the pellets were convenient for treating water where access for spraying was difficult. Fortunately the dry summer denied mosquitoes many additional breeding places, such as choked gutters, water butts, tins and other receptacles, and if occupiers of premises prevented such breeding places and kept tanks covered with close fitting lids, much more would be achieved in reducing the breeding of mosquitoes.

11. RODENT CONTROL

(a) Surface Infestations -

Number of properties inspected after complaint	277
Number found to be infested by rats	120
Number found to be infested by mice	152

There were 136 more complaints than in 1958, infestations of mice increasing by 65 and infestations of rats by 84.

In several instances, surface infestations were found to connect with sewers via drainage defects, the subsequent repair preventing further surface infestation.

(b) Sewers -

Test baiting carried out in June showed that of 62 baits laid, 35 complete takes and 7 part takes were obtained. These 42 points were poison baited until further takes of bait ceased. By comparison with treatment of sewers in 1958, these figures indicate the continuing need for baiting of the sewers at regular intervals.

12. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

13. CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

The closure and dismantling of the S.E. Gas Board's retort house at their West Minster Works has resulted in a considerable improvement there and in the nearby new housing estate at Queensway, the grit and dust from the obsolete horizontal retorts being eliminated. Electrification of the railway has also removed a source of nuisance suffered by residents in the vicinity of the passenger station from steam trains. The Council considered there was no need to bring into operation Smoke Control Areas.

14. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT 1951

Although several cases were kept under observation by the Health Department in close liaison with the District Officer, it was not necessary to use this legislation during 1959. One old couple in need of care and attention were persuaded to accept hospital accommodation. Proceedings under the Act are taken only as a last resort.

15. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Maidstone and the following specimens were examined -

Water	...	...	...	...	45
Milk	...	...	...	...	49
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	4
Fæces	...	...	...	...	23
Urine	...	...	...	...	21
Swabs	...	...	...	...	20

SECTION V

HOUSING

1. The following are details of the number of houses built during 1959 and the total since the war -

	During 1959	Total built since the war
Council houses:		
Temporary, completed	-	46
Permanent, completed	38	877
Permanent, under construction ...	-	-
Other houses:		
Permanent, completed	-	39
Permanent, under construction ...	-	-

2. Slum Clearance combined with housing tenancy management has continued to form a major part of the Health Department's work. Two blocks of flats, Lilac House and Rowan House, were completed and let during the year, each containing 19 units of accommodation.

In spite of a reduction in house construction, a satisfactory rate of dealing with the remainder of the Council's Slum Clearance was maintained. 110 persons in 51 families were re-housed, 74 unfit houses were demolished and 2 were closed. There was an increase in the number of Council tenancies vacated and these were shared between slum clearance displacements and ordinary waiting list applicants.

3. Closing Orders were made on the following houses -

Victory Street: No. 10
Hare Street: No. 1
Wood Street: No. 15a

4. Five Demolition Orders under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957, were made on the following properties:-

Edward Street: Nos. 1, 2, 3

Union Street: Nos. 17, 19

Sixteen houses were demolished during the year as a result of formal or informal action under Section 17, or after acquisition by agreement -

Rose Street: Nos. 46, 48, 50

Courts Buildings: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4

Kent Street: No. 10

Union Street: No. 15

Thompsons Court: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Drummonds Alley: Nos. 1, 2

5. The following 58 houses in Clearance Areas were demolished during the year.

Unfit houses -

Bethel Passage: Nos. 12, 14, 8, 10

South Street: Nos. 30, 32

Victory Street: Nos. 22, 24, 26, 26a, 28, 30, 32

Railway Road: Nos. 24, 25, 26, 27

School Lane: Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Railway Road: No. 13

Cross Street: Nos. 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13

Russell Street: Nos. 21, 24, 25, 48, 48a, 50, 19

Regents Place: Nos. 4, 5, 6, 8

King Street: Nos. 25, 27

Hope Street: Nos. 16, 18

Spring Garden Passage: No. 4

Broad Street: Nos. 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39

Bell Alley: Nos. 24, 26

6. The following are details of the Clearance and Compulsory Orders which were made and confirmed during the year -

Spring Garden Passage Clearance Area 1959

Hope Street: Nos. 28, 30

Spring Garden Passage: Nos. 4, 5, 5a, 6, 6a

Clarence Cottages Clearance Area 1959

Clarence Cottages: Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

King Street Clearance Area 1959

King Street: Nos. 25, 27

Hope Street No. 1 Clearance Area 1959

Hope Street: Nos. 16, 18

Hope Street No. 2 Clearance Area 1959

Hope Street: Nos. 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119

Broad Street Clearance Area 1959

Broad Street: Nos. 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39

Russell Street Clearance Area 1959

Russell Street: Nos. 48, 48a, 50

Bell Alley: Nos. 24, 26

Victory Street Clearance Area 1959

Victory Street: Nos. 44, 46, 48

High Street Passage No. 1 Clearance Area 1959

High Street Passage: Nos. 1, 14, 15, 16

Wood Street: Nos. 15a, 15b, 17a

High Street Passage No. 2 Clearance Area 1959

High Street Passage: Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8

Hope Street No. 3 Clearance Area 1959

Hope Street: Nos. 5, 7, 9

7. RENT ACT 1957

3 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were made compared with 22 in 1958. 1 Certificate was issued and 2 undertakings by landlords were accepted.

6 applications for cancellation of Certificates were received and in 2 of these objections by the tenants were accepted by the Council. Eventually a total of 5 certificates were cancelled.

8. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing is summarised below -

Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	58
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement	-
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act 1957	-
Number of families displaced from above	43

Houses not in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 17 Housing Act 1957	5
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 Housing Act 1957 .	16
Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 17 Housing Act 1957	-
Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957	3
Parts of buildings closed under Sec.18 Housing Act 1957 .	-
Total number of families displaced	8

Repairs in the period

Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts	68
Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice	-
Housing Act 1957 - formal notice	-

Purchase of houses by agreement

Houses in Clearance Areas (not confirmed Clearance Orders or C.P.O.'s) purchased in the year	4
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Improvement Grants

Number of applications approved	38
Total cost, approximately	£11,110
Total grants made, approximately	£4,560

Rent Act 1957

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	3
Undertakings by landlords	2
Certificates of Disrepair issued	1
No. of Certificates cancelled	5

SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. The requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations are brought to the attention of all food handlers of new premises and new occupiers of existing shops. An extension of cellophane pre-packaging of foods has been noticeable and now includes bacon and meat. One complaint was received during the year and this concerned discoloured sliced bread. The cause of this was traced to grease from the slicing machine, the changing of the cutters affecting the first few loaves. It was found necessary to caution two persons smoking in shops where open food was displayed.

2. MILK SUPPLY

There are no producers in the area but there is one pasteurising plant in operation. There are 32 registered distributors retailing the following designations -

Pasteurised	13
T.T. (Pasteurised)	3
Sterilised	31

49 samples of milk (25 pasteurised and 24 sterilised) were taken during the year and all passed the prescribed tests except for one pasteurised sample that failed the methylene blue test. This was notified to the Kent County Council, the licensing authority for pasteurising plants. There were no complaints of extraneous matter in milk bottles.

The bulk of the town's milk supply continued to be met by milks pasteurised and bottled in two dairies, one in the Urban District and the other in the adjoining Rural District. In addition, both dairies obtain supplies of sterilised milk from wholesale sources in other districts.

3. ICE CREAM

Premises registered for manufacture	1
Premises registered for sale and storage	62

Only one premises remains for manufacture and this is done on the "cold mix" method, i.e., the ingredients are pasteurised and dehydrated, the powder being mixed only with cold water. The majority of the ice cream is manufactured by firms of national repute and retailed as pre-packed ice cream. Sampling has purposely been carried out where serving by the retailer is from bulk supplies and it is gratifying to note that hygienic standards of retailing have achieved good results.

4. INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(a) Meat supplies continued to be obtained mainly from wholesalers at Chatham and Canterbury. Transport and handling of the meat was satisfactorily maintained.

(b) Condemned butchers' meat is collected by the Sheppey Glue & Chemical Works after treatment with naphthalene green. Other condemned foods are incinerated.

(c) The following are details of food found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered -

Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	lb.
Fresh meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb.
Sausages	.	...	...	...	...	...	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb.
Ham	.	...	...	...	...	...	1	lb.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	lb.
Cooked meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	lb.
Tinned meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	435	lb.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	stone
Tinned fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	lb.
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$	lb.
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	lb.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb.
Tinned milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb.
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	lb.
Cereals	..	...	...	...	...	...	4	lb.
Potatoes	.	...	...	...	...	...	3	sacks
Carrots	..	...	...	...	...	...	1120	lb.
Butter beans	..	...	...	...	...	...	3	lb.
Tinned vegetables	..	...	...	...	...	...	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	lb.
Dates	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	lb.
Tinned fruit	..	...	...	...	...	...	117	lb.
Biscuits	.	...	...	...	...	...	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	lb.
Pies	...	...	...	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$	lb.
Crumpets	.	...	...	...	...	...	1	lb.
Tinned soups	..	...	...	...	...	...	4	lb.
Miscellaneous	.	...	...	...	...	...	84	lb.

5. FOOD PREMISES

(a) 82 inspections were made of the following premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 or the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949-54 -

	Premises	Inspections
Ice cream, manufacture and sale ...	63	51
Preserved foods, manufacture	14	24
Dairy	1	7

(b) Other food premises, by type of business, are shown below -

Hotels, cafes, restaurants	26
Groceries, general provisions ...	62
Butchers	13
Fish, wet	5
Fish, fried	7
Sweets, manufacture	1
Meat pies, manufacture	1
Greengrocery	23
Confectionery and sweets	23
Bakeries	2

340 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

6. FISH FRYING

There are 7 fish frying establishments. All have been conducted satisfactorily and no nuisances have occurred.

7. SHELLFISH

Retailers were advised of the Port of London Health Authority Order made under the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations 1934. There is no local collection of shellfish for commercial purposes.

8. BAKEHOUSES

One of the two bakeries closed during the year and supplies were obtained from the mainland. The remaining bakery is principally used for the manufacture of cakes and other lines of confectionery, bread being produced by this firm at a bakery in Maidstone. There is consequently no bread baking in the district now.

9. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

I am able to give details of samples taken under this Act in the Sheerness Urban District by courtesy of Mr. S. Strugn  ll, Chief Inspector of the Weights & Measures Department of the Kent County Council -

Aspirin	1	Lemon Flavour .	1
Beef Sausage Meat ...	1	Macedoine Vegetable Salad	1
Bitter Beer ...	1	Mikky ...	1
Brandy ...	1	Milk ...	12
Bronchypax ...	1	New Zealand Butter .	1
Cherries ..	1	Oranges ..	1
Chop Sauce ...	1	Orange Squash .	2
Coconut Flavour ...	1	Parsley ..	1
Condensed Full Cream Milk		Peach Nectar ..	1
Unsweetened ...	1	Pineapple Cubes in Syrup	1
Cough Mixture ..	1	Pork Sausages .	1
Cough Syrup ...	1	Pure Dairy Cream ...	1
Demi-Sel Pasteurised Whole		Pure Sterilised Cream ...	1
Milk Soft Cheese ...	1	Quinasp ..	1
Dried Milk Powder ...	2	Raspberry Split Ice Cream	
Essence Paregoric ...	1	Lolly ...	1
Flour ...	1	Rum .	1
French Mustard .	1	Sage ...	1
Gin ..	1	Self-raising Flour .	1
Ground Mixed Spice...	2	Sliced White Bread .	1
Ice Lollies Orange Flavour	1	Tancolin .	1
Compound Glycerine Thymol	1	Whisky ...	2

All of the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

Essence Paregoric	Does not contain any substantial amount of morphine.	Now labelled as 'flavoured'.
Mikky	Fat 1.1%, Solids no Fat 8.0%, Dry fat free cocoa 1.0%. Contained more separated milk than milk.	Label amended
Ground Mixed Spice	Cinnamon, clove and nutmeg. Lead 1, Copper 60, Zinc 40 parts per million. Copper exceeds recommended limit of Food Standards Committee.	Makers notified
Ground Mixed Spice	Lead 2, Copper 33, Zinc 50 parts per million. Copper is high (but almost certainly not harmful).	
Sliced White Bread	Interior completely mouldy, some mould on outside.	Written caution sent to suppliers.

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937
in respect of the year 1959 for the
Urban District of Sheerness

PART I OF THE ACT -

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Secs 1,2,3,4,6 are to be enforced by Local Auth orities (no mechanical power)	5	4	-	-
Factories not included above in which Sec 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power)....	43	27	-	-
Other premises in which Sec 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	3	-	-
Total	52	34	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found -

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

3. Part VIII of the Act - Outwork

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making of wearing apparel	2	-	-	-	-	-
Other processes	-	-	-	-	-	-

Visits and Re-visits during 1959

Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bug infested houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Verminous houses and other household pests (excluding bugs)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
Filthy conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	753
Refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Swimming pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Water sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Mosquito control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Infectious disease investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Smoke, dust and fumes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Public health interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	324
Inspections under Public Health Act	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240
Inspections in Clearance Areas	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	265
Inspections re D.O's and C.O's	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Inspections for overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Miscellaneous housing visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	561
Interviews re tenancy management and applicants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1546
Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Halls and places of entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Movable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Marine stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Pet shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Bakehouses	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Meat shops and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Fishmongers and poulterers	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Fried fish shops	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Dairies and milk shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Milk sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Ice cream sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Restaurants and cafes	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Food manufacturing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Miscellaneous food visits	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Miscellaneous visits and interviews	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Rent Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Care and attention of aged persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Holiday accommodation list checking	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Legal Proceedings (Housing Tenancies	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

SHEPPEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1959

Chairman:
H. C. Love

Vice-Chairman:
A. P. Dummott

Councillors:

H. S. Atkins
D. C. Austin
B. E. Bigg
R. N. Bigg
Mrs. M. Bourbousson
N. W. Ford
Mrs. N. Hodges
Miss E. M. Mills
L.T.A. Mills
G. T. Parris, C.C.
F. H. Purvis
G. D. Thomsett

Health Committee:

Chairman:
G. D. Thomsett

Councillors:

H. S. Atkins
D. C. Austin
Mrs. M. Bourbousson
Mrs. N. Hodges
Miss E. M. Mills

Clerk of the Council:
R. E. Gray, F.C.C.S.

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector:
E. F. Brading, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:
T. E. Davies

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Sheppey Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Sheppey Rural District during 1959.

The Registrar-General estimated the population to be 9,700 which is an increase of 130. The number of births registered was 166, a big increase on recent years, and the birth rate of 17.1 is the highest since 1951. The corrected birth rate, which is calculated to give a true comparison with other districts, was 19.3 whilst that for England & Wales was 16.5 per 1,000 of the population.

The death rate in 1958 was above the average, but the rate for 1959 was the highest since 1925, the earliest year for which records are available for the Rural District. The corrected rate was 13.2 as compared with 11.6 for the whole country.

The stillbirth rate was low, 17.7, 3 stillbirths being slightly below the average, and the infant death rate of 18.1 per 1,000 live births (3 deaths of infants under one year of age) was satisfactory. The rate for England & Wales was 22.0, once again a new low record.

Scarlet Fever was rather more persistent than of late years, although only 19 cases were notified. Whooping Cough and Measles occurred in the spring and summer but neither outbreak was large.

One case of Typhoid occurred in the adjoining district of Sheerness, and although no positive laboratory evidence proved Scrapsgate cockles to be the cause, there was strong presumptive evidence pointing to their involvement.

The slum clearance programme is now virtually completed with the possibility of 15 - 20 houses to be dealt with during the next five years.

I wish to record with thanks the excellent work carried out by Mr. Brading, the Surveyor, Engineer & Public Health Inspector, and Mr. Davies, the Additional Public Health Inspector, and also to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their kindness and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. AREA 20,319 acres

2. POPULATION

As estimated for mid-1959 by the
Registrar-General 9,700

This figure is 130 higher than the previous year. The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 35.

3. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES 3,462

4. RATEABLE VALUE £137,800

5. SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE £566

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

1. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	83 (68)	72 (65)	155 (133)
Illegitimate	5 (6)	6 (2)	11 (8)
Totals	88 (74)	78 (67)	166 (141)

2. BIRTH RATE

Crude Rate per 1,000 population	17.1 (14.7)
Corrected rate	19.3 (16.6)
Rate for England & Wales	16.5 (16.4)

3. ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS 11

This is 6.6 per cent of total live births.

4. STILLBIRTHS

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
Illegitimate	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	17.7 (14.0)		
Rate for England & Wales	20.7 (21.6)		

5. INFANT DEATHS 3

Infant death rate per 1,000 live births ...	18.1 (28.3)
Rate for England & Wales	22.0 (22.5)
Number of legitimate infant deaths	3
Number of illegitimate infant deaths	0
Number of neo-natal deaths (under 4 weeks)	2
Number of early neo-natal deaths (under 1 week)	1
Number of peri-natal deaths (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined)	4

6. MATERNAL DEATHS Nil

7. DEATHS

Crude rate per 1,000 population	13.5 (12.3)
Corrected rate	13.2 (12.1)
Rate for England & Wales	11.6 (11.7)

A total of 131 deaths was registered of which 72 were males and 59 females. This was 13 more than in 1958 and gives a death rate of 13.5, higher than the average of 11.4 for the district. 67 deaths were due to heart disease and associated conditions as compared with 65 in 1958. The number of deaths from all forms of cancer increased from 23 to 32, whilst respiratory diseases remained the same with 12. There were no deaths of residents caused by motor vehicle accidents but 4 deaths were classified as due to accidents, two of them being falls.

(Figures in brackets relate to 1958)

Table I shows the number of deaths allocated to the area by the Registrar-General.

TABLE I

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
2. Tuberculosis, other	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3. Syphilitic disease	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
4. Diphtheria	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5. Whooping Cough	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
6. Meningococcal infections	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7. Acute poliomyelitis	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
8. Measles	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5 (1)	2 (1)	7 (2)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	7 (1)	1 (1)	8 (2)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	- (-)	3 (4)	3 (4)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	- (-)	1 (1)	1 (1)
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8 (8)	5 (6)	13 (14)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
16. Diabetes	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	11 (5)	9 (8)	20 (13)
18. Coronary disease, angina	14 (10)	4 (7)	18 (17)
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	1 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)
20. Other heart disease	7 (16)	15 (11)	22 (27)
21. Other circulatory disease	1 (-)	2 (5)	3 (5)
22. Influenza	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
23. Pneumonia	7 (4)	2 (1)	9 (5)
24. Bronchitis	3 (2)	- (3)	3 (5)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system..	- (1)	- (1)	- (2)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1 (1)	- (1)	1 (2)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1 (-)	2 (1)	3 (1)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1 (2)	- (-)	1 (2)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
31. Congenital malformations	- (1)	1 (-)	1 (1)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2 (3)	4 (6)	6 (9)
33. Motor vehicle accidents	- (2)	- (-)	- (2)
34. All other accidents	1 (1)	3 (-)	4 (1)
35. Suicide	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
All causes	72 (59)	59 (59)	131 (118)

(Figures in brackets relate to 1958)

The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred -

TABLE II

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
Males	2	--	-	1	-	3	10	11	19	19	7
Females	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	4	19	21	11

The average age at death was 69.1 years (70.0 in 1958), being 65.6 (68.1) for the males and 73.3 (71.8) for the females. One male and three females reached the age of 90 years, the oldest male being 92 and the oldest female 91 years.

8. INFANT MORTALITY

Three infant deaths under the age of one year occurred, the infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births being 18.1 for the year. For England & Wales the rate was 22.0. The average rate over the past 10 years has been 24.3 for the Rural District.

Details are given in the following table:-

TABLE III

	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Bronchopneumonia Prematurity	M	2 days	Hospital	Hospital
Congestive heart failure Congenital heart disease ...	F	8 days	Hospital	Hospital
Bronchopneumonia Fibrocystic disease of the pancreas	M	3 months	Hospital	Hospital

SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES
THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. A total of 180 cases of infectious disease were notified during 1959. 19 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred, rather more than usual, but once again they were all very mild. There were 24 cases of Whooping Cough, similar to 1958 and well below average. Nearly all occurred between April and July, and three young children under one year of age were affected.

A few cases of Measles were notified in the first six months of the year but the majority occurred in July (40 cases) and August (27 cases) in the Halfway-Scrapsgate Road area. There were, however, only 84 cases during the whole year.

11 cases of Pneumonia were notified and 9 deaths were attributed to all forms of this disease.

There were 31 cases of Food Poisoning and these were all concerned with one outbreak at the Sheppey General Hospital. Although neither the food nor the causative agent was definitely discovered, Shepherd's Pie was suspected and Cl. Welchii was considered to be the possible source of infection. The illness was mild and all the patients had recovered within 24 hours. Table IV shows the age distribution of infectious disease.

TABLE IV

Disease	Total	Age groups										
		Under 1	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 -
Scarlet Fever	19	-	-	1	-	4	14	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	24	3	-	3	2	3	10	2	-	1	-	-
Measles	84	1	6	8	10	11	48	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	11	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	1	5
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	7	20
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	180	4	6	12	13	18	73	2	5	8	14	25

Table V shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year as compared with those notified in 1957, removals to hospital and the number of deaths according to the Registrar-General's classification.

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Total (1958)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1958)
Scarlet Fever	19	(4)	13	6	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	24	(25)	14	10	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles	84	(187)	44	40	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)...	11	(9)	6	5	-	9	(5)
Erysipelas	4	(2)	2	2	-	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Non-Para ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	(1)	-	4	4*	-	(-)
Smallpox	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning	31	(1)	6	25	31*	-	(-)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	(5)	2	-	2	1	(-)
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	(-)	1	-	1	-	(-)
Totals	180	(235)	88	92	38	10	(5)

*These cases occurred in hospital.

2. TUBERCULOSIS

Two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, a much lower figure than usual, and only one death was due to this disease.

One non-pulmonary case was notified, the first case since 1953. This was a man of 59 years and the localisation of the disease was the right kidney.

The tuberculosis Register was checked in collaboration with the Chest Clinic and 26 old pulmonary and 9 non-pulmonary cases have been deleted as either recovered, removed and/or lost sight of. A summary of the Register is shown in the Table below -

TABLE VI

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January, 1959 ...	54	52	13	11	130
New notifications	2	-	1	-	3
Transfers from other districts ...	5	3	-	1	9
Deaths due to Tuberculosis ...	1	-	-	-	1
Deaths of cases on register but not due to Tuberculosis ...	-	1	-	-	1
Removed from district during year .	7	5	-	-	12
Removed from district, lost sight of, recovered etc. ...	16	10	3	6	35
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December, 1959 ...	37	39	11	6	93

3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to vaccinations and immunisations carried out during 1959.

(a) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Year of Birth	Vaccinated in 1959 (2 injections)	Total now vaccinated
1959	5	5
1958	73	87
1957	44	121
1956	33	117
1955	15	103
1954	20	85
1953	29	104
1952	29	106
1951	21	81
1950	17	94
1949	19	100
1948	31	111
1947	31	148
1946	26	120
1945	34	109
1944	39	115
Earlier	359	494
Totals	825	2100

These figures show that about 65% of all school children have now been vaccinated against Poliomyelitis, but although this protection has now been offered to the 16-26 group for more than a year, only about 37% have received two injections.

(b) Smallpox Vaccination

Age group	Primary	Re-vaccination
Under 1	49 (38)	- (-)
1 to 4	52 (47)	- (-)
5 to 14	4 (1)	3 (3)
15 and over	3 (5)	9 (6)
Totals	108 (91)	12 (9)

The level of 70% vaccinated for children between 1 and 5 years of age is being maintained.

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1959	Re-inforcing Inoculation in 1959	Total number immunised at end of 1959
1959	22	-	22
1958	75	-	89
1957	19	-	96
1956	4	-	110
1955	3	-	107
1954	2	19	101
1953	2	7	133
1952	1	2	110
1951	1	1	133
1950	-	2	107
1949	-	1	128
1948	-	-	118
1947	-	-	103
1946	-	-	102
1945	-	-	108
Totals	129	32	1567

It is calculated that 71% of school children have been immunised and 77% of children between the ages of 1 and 5 years.

(d) Whooping Cough Immunisation

It is very encouraging to note that 30% of the under 1's have been immunised, 77% of those between 1 and 2 and 60% of those between 2 and 3, although it would be preferable for those children immunised in their second year to receive their injections earlier. Perhaps this will be achieved now the County are issuing a Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus antigen.

Year of Birth	Number immunised in 1959	Total number immunised at end of 1959
1959	49	49
1958	58	106
1957	18	78
1956	4	30
1955	2	4
1954	3	6
1953	2	3
1952	-	1
1951	1	1
Total	137	278

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

The Sheppey Water Board has continued with a programme of new works to replace existing mains that have become unserviceable due to corrosion. Several extensions have been made to existing mains to meet increased development and a new 9" main has been laid to the Warden and Leysdown areas affording an improved supply to this area during the peak influx of holiday visitors. Due to the affording of a bulk supply from H.M.Prison, Eastchurch, and Sittingbourne & Milton U.D.C., a continuous 24-hour supply was available throughout the year. Mains extensions and relays were carried out at Grove Avenue, Uplands Way and the Broadway.

The consumption of water for the year in the Rural District totalled 142.8 million gallons. Allowing for resident and non-resident visitors this approximates to 34.7 gallons-head-day made up of 27.3 gallons-head-day unmetered (which may be considered domestic) and 7.4 metered. As many of the Holiday Camps are on metered supplies, it is estimated that approximately 65% of metered water is for domestic purposes and 35% is for non-domestic purposes. Thus the corrected domestic consumption is estimated as 32.1 gallons-head-day and the corrected non-domestic consumption as 2.6 gallons-head-day.

The following are details of samples taken by the Water Board and the Health Department -

Supply	No.of samples taken	No.of samples in which were found	
		Coliform bacilli	Faecal coli
Warden -			
Untreated	48	3	2
Treated	59	3	-
Leysdown -			
Untreated	36	12	5
Treated	12	4	3
Eastchurch -			
Untreated	47	-	-
Wall End -			
Untreated	43	1	-
Abbey Gate -			
Untreated	51	7	2
Treated	47	7	2

The number of dwelling-houses supplied, with the source and method of distribution was as follows -

	From public supplies		Private or communal wells	
	Tap in house	Standpipe	No.of wells	No.of houses
Minster	2640	-	-	-
Eastchurch ..	420	22	1	1
Warden	135	-	-	-
Leysdown	329	-	2	70*
Harty	-	-	5	15
Elmley	1	-	-	-

*These are mainly bungalows and chalets at Shellness Hamlet used as summer residences only and also beach chalets along Shellness beach. In addition, all camping sites are supplied with water from public mains.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) The following statement shows in summary form the method of sewage disposal throughout the district.

Parish	Number of properties, including camps		
	Main drainage	Cesspools	Pail closets
Minster	2623	206	83
Eastchurch	208	205	136
Leysdown	161	62	70
Warden	-	89	19
Elmley & Harty	-	12	10

(b) Practically all the houses in the Minster area are on main drainage but to many of the remainder the sewer is not easily available. Sewage from the area is collected at either the Scrapsgate or Sheerness East Disposal Works which consist of detritus tanks, settling tanks, filter beds and humus tank. The effluent from Sheerness East is discharged into an open ditch approximately one mile in length before the final discharge on to the mud flats at Scrapsgate. The effluent from the Scrapsgate works discharges into the same ditch at Scrapsgate.

(c) In the Leysdown area, the first stage of the Bay View drainage scheme was completed, 26 cesspools were abolished and over 1,000 chalets are now connected to main drainage. Sewage from here and from Eastchurch is collected at Eastchurch Sewage Works (formerly R.A.F.) and is dealt with by settling tanks, filter beds and humus tank before the effluent is piped to Windmill Creek in the Swale.

A night soil collection operated by the Council provides for 83 houses with pail closets.

3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

The Scrapsgate tip was closed during the year and all refuse is now disposed of by controlled tipping at the Windmill Creek site. Routine treatment to control flies and rodents is carried out.

4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

All schools in the area are on main drainage and general sanitary conditions have been found satisfactory.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Conveniences for both sexes exist at Halfway, Scrapsgate, Minster, Eastchurch and Leysdown. Washing facilities are available in the conveniences at Leysdown and Scrapsgate. The new conveniences opened during the year at Leysdown include washing facilities and slipper baths.

6. DISINFECTIONS AND DISINFESTATIONS

(a) Four premises were disinfected after infectious disease.

(b) The following disinfestations were carried out during the year -

	Council houses	Other houses
Bed bugs	-	1
Fleas	1	-
Wasps	5	58
Flies	3	1

Presumably due to climatic conditions, numerous complaints of wasp infestations were received. These were effectively dealt with by insecticides and fumers.

7. MOSQUITO CONTROL

Treatment of ponds and ditches near houses was again carried out but the use of anti-mosquito capsules has reduced the necessity for hand-spraying to almost nil.

Mosquito breeding was adversely affected by the dry summer and consequently there was a big reduction in the prevalence of these insects during the summer season.

8. RODENT CONTROL

One full-time operator is employed and the following are details of surface infestations found and treated during the year -

Infestations by rats	208
Infestations by mice	47
Number treated by local authority	255
Number of farm surveys	133
Number of farms treated	45
Number of survey visits	1732
Number of treatment visits	1244
Number of complaints	70

In view of the 1958 sewer test, the Divisional Rodent Officer considered a test during 1959 to be unnecessary.

The rodent control service was reviewed in the light of certain provisions of the Local Government Act, 1958, and it was decided that a full-time rodent operator be retained and a free (domestic and business premises) rodent control service be instituted. This free service is for treatments only and does not prejudice the local authority in relation to action for rodent proofing etc.

9. CAMPING SITES

The following are details of camping sites in the area -

Occupied sites	46
Approved sites not yet developed	7
Camps with mains water supplies	46
Camps connected to main drainage	22
Camps with own disposal works	3
Camps served by cesspools	18
Camps served by pail closets	3
Total number of dwellings on occupied sites	4500 approx.

The 46 camps cover an area of approximately 335 acres. They are under regular supervision by the Public Health Inspector and generally speaking are run efficiently and are not often the subject of complaint. Where main drainage is now available, a total of 1,000 chalets have been provided with individual sinks and water closets.

10. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There is only one swimming bath in the area open to the general public and this is at the Warden Bay Holiday Camp. The bath is filled at the start of the season with mains water which is purified by a continuous process of filtration, chlorination and aeration. A regular check on chlorination is made by the Public Health Inspector and 3 samples taken for bacteriological examination all showed satisfactory results. There are also two private swimming pools owned by holiday camps.

Byelaws with respect to Swimming Baths and Bathing Pools which are not under the Council's management were made under Section 233 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and came into operation at the beginning of 1959.

11. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway & Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

12. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Maidstone and the following specimens were examined -

Water	343	Mince	1
Fæces (human) ...	35	Cockles	2
(animal) ...	1	Sewer swabs	5
Meal	1	Swimming Pool water	3

13. SHOPS ACT

The Public Health Department is responsible for the administration of this Act.

14. HOME SAFETY

The Kent County Council have delegated to the Sheppey Rural District Council their duties in relation to accidents in the home, and these functions are carried out by the Health Committee through the Public Health Department.

SECTION V

HOUSING

1. The following are details of the number of houses built during 1959 and the total since the war.

Minster Leysdown Warden Eastchurch Total

Council houses:

Completed in 1959	12	-	-	-	12
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Completed since the war:

Permanent	330	14	-	36	380
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Temporary	26	-	-	6	32
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Under construction	8	-	-	-	8
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Private enterprise:

Completed in 1959	12	3	-	1	16
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Completed since the war	254	18	3	12	287
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Under construction	66	6	-	-	72
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2. Three Orders were made during the year and comprised the following 16 houses:-

Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 Lower Road, Eastchurch;

Nos. 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33 Minster Road, Minster;

Nos. 11, 13, 15 and 19 Chapel Street, Minster.

Closing Orders were made on two houses, Bantry, Shurland Avenue and 1 New Buildings, Eastchurch and a Demolition Order was made on Glenside, Oak Lane, but following an appeal to the Council, the owner gave an undertaking not to relet until the house was made habitable.

3. The following houses were demolished in consequence of a Clearance Order made in 1958 -

Nos. 21, 23, 25, 27 and 29 Chapel Street, Minster.

4. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below -

Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	5
Number of houses demolished which were included by reason of bad arrangement	-
Number of houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act 1957	-
Total number of families displaced	3

Houses not included in Clearance Areas

Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 17(1) Housing Act 1957	1
Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17(1) Housing Act 1957 .	-
Houses closed under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) . . .	2
Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18 Housing Act 1957	-
Houses closed under Sections 17(3) and 26	-
Total number of families displaced	3

Repairs in the period

Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts ..	11
Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice .. .	1
Housing Act 1957 - formal notice - Sections 9 and 16 ..	-
Houses made fit under Section 24 Housing Act 1957 . . .	-

Improvement Grants

Number of applications approved	16
Total cost	£5,618
Total grants made	£2,576

Rent Act 1957

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	14
Undertakings by Landlords	2
Certificates of Disrepair issued	11
No. of Certificates cancelled	6

SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK SUPPLY

There are now 48 distributors of milk in the district retailing the following designations -

Pasteurised	48
T.T. (Pasteurised)	4
Sterilised	38

2. ICE CREAM

59 premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream. One manufacturer is also registered.

3. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The following items of food were found unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered -

Cooked Ham	21 lb.
Eels	100 lb.
Tinned foodstuffs	116 lb. approx.

Condemned meat is stained with naphthalene green and buried on the refuse tip.

4. FOOD PREMISES

(a) 72 inspections were made of the following food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 or the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949-1954 -

	Premises	Inspections
Ice cream, manufacture and sale	60	55
Preserved food, manufacture	2	15
Dairies	1	2

8. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

I am indebted to Mr. S. Strugnell, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council for the following details of samples taken in the area during the year -

Baking Powder	...	...	...	...	...	1
Borax and Honey, B.P.C.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fruit Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	1
Garden Peas	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gin	...	...	...	...	...	3
Lemon Curd	..	...	...	...	...	1
Lollie	.	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	24
Prunes in Syrup	..	...	...	...	...	1
Pure Malt Vinegar	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ready Spiced Malt Vinegar	..	...	...	...	...	1
Rum flavouring	...	...	...	...	...	1
Self-raising Flour	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sweet Piccalilli	.	...	...	...	...	1
Topsy Aspirin	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whisky	.	...	...	...	...	2

All of the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

Lemon Curd	Fat 12.9%, Acidity as citric 1.3%, Soluble solids 61%, Egg solids 6.8%. A good quality article except for the low soluble solids.	This was a 'home made' article. The sugar content has been increased.
Gin	67.3% proof spirit (3.9% excess water on basis of 70% proof spirit).	Follow-up sample satisfactory.

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937
in respect of the year 1959 for the
Rural District of Sheppey

PART I OF THE ACT -

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Secs 1,2,3,4,6 are to be enforced by Local Auth orities (no mechanical power)	4	3	-	-
Factories not included above in which Sec 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power)....	18	13	-	-
Other premises in which Sec 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	2	-	-
Total	26	18	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-
Total ...	-	-	-	-

3. Part VIII of the Act - Outwork

Number of outworkers Nil

APPENDIX A

Visits and Re-visits during 1959

[illegible]

